

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02165 220736Z

14/14-11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 /026 W
----- 010615

P 210834Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2628

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2165

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DOWNGRADING INFO)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MASS, MILI, SN
SUBJ: GOS REQUEST FOR USAF PERSONNEL

REF: SINGAPORE 2164

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE DATED APRIL 29 REPORTED
REFTEL (DETAILED ANNEXES WILL BE POUCHED TO IMS COUNTRY DIR-
ECTOR).

2. QUOTE: SECONDMENT OF AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO THE
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCE. UNQUOTE.

3. QUOTE: IT IS THE POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT TO PROVIDE
MILITARY PERSONNEL ON LOAN TO COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT RECIPIENTS
OF U.S. MILITARY AID. SINGAPORE HAS THEREFORE NEVER OBTAINED
LOAN AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO ASSIST AND ADVISE IN THE
BUILD UP OF HER DEFENCE FORCE. A RECONSIDERATION OF THIS POLICY
IS SOUGHT FOR THE PROVISION OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TO MAN
APPOINTMENTS AT STAFF AND SQUADRON LEVELS IN THE REPUBLIC OF
SINGAPORE AIR FORCE (RSAF).

4. QUOTE: SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1969, THE RSAF HAS BEEN
MANAGED BY EXPERIENCED AIR FORCE PERSONNEL PRIMARILY FROM
COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES EITHER ON LOAN OR CONTRACT TERMS.
DEPENDENCE ON COMMONWEALTH PERSONNEL WAS DICTATED BY THE TYPES
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SINGAP 02165 220736Z

OF HARDWARE PURCHASE FOR THE AIR FORCE - MAINLY THE BRITISH

HUNTER AIRCRAFT AND BLOODHOUND SAMS. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN FLYING, TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT DUTIES, MOST ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY EXPERIENCED TO ASSUME SENIOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS OR EVEN SENIOR COMMAND POSITIONS IN SQUADRONS. HENCE THE RSAF WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON FOREIGN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL. (DATA ON THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN PILOTS IN THE RSAF ARE IN ANNEX A).

5. QUOTE: IN 1972 SINGAPORE PURCHASED HER FIRST AMERICAN COMBAT AIRCRAFT, NAMELY THE EX-U.S. NAVY SKYHAWKS REFURBISHED UNDER CONTRACT BY LOCKHEEDS. THERE ARE NOW TWO SKYHAWK SQUADRONS WITH A TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT OF 48 AIRCRAFT. PILOTS ARE TRAINED IN THE U.S. BY THE U.S. NAVAL AIR FORCE UNDER A SPECIAL CONTRACT. THE PHASING IN OF THE SKYHAWKS INTO THE RSAF MAKES IT NECESSARY TO ENGAGE AIR FORCE PERSONNEL WHO ARE AU FAIT WITH AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION. HENCE CHINESE AIR FORCE PILOTS WERE RECRUITED TO MAN THE SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN THE SKYHAWK SQUADRONS AND TWO EX-U.S. MARINE OFFICERS WERE EMPLOYED ON CONTRACT TERMS AS SKYHAWK CONSULTANTS. THE PREVAILING POLICY ON NO AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR SINGAPORE HAS MADE IT NECESSARY FOR THE FORMAL STATUS OF AMERICAN CONSULTANTS IN THE SINGAPORE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE TO BE EMPLOYEES OF PRIVATE COMPANIES. IN THIS INSTANCE THE COMPANY WAS A GOVERNMENT OWNED ENTERPRISE ENGAGED IN THE SALE OF SCRAP IRON AND WRECKED VEHICLES FROM SOUTH VIETNAM.

6. QUOTE: THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, OF AN AMERICAN ALL WEATHER SUPERSONIC FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE THE HUNTERS AND THE EVENTUAL REPLACEMENT OF BLOODHOUNDS BY A U.S. SAM SYSTEM, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REASONS WHY U.S. AIR FORCE PERSONNEL ARE NEEDED FOR COMMAND STAFF AND TRAINING APPOINTMENTS IN THE RSAF.

7. QUOTE: LOCAL PILOTS ARE NOT READY FOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS AS THEY LACK EXPERIENCE IN MILITARY AVIATION AND NEED TO OBTAIN MORE COCKPIT HOURS. SINGAPORE HAS NOTED THAT OF LATE IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN HIGH CALIBRE AIR FORCE PERSONNEL ON SECONDMENT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. DEFENCE BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND SHRINKAGE OF STAFF ESTABLISHMENTS IN THESE COUNTRIES HAVE MADE SENIOR PERSONNEL WARY OF SECONDMENT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SINGAP 02165 220736Z

TO SINGAPORE FOR FEAR THAT ON THEIR RETURN, THEY WOULD BE DECLARED REDUNDANT.

8. QUOTE: IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AGREES, IN PRINCIPLE, TO REVERSE ITS CURRENT POLICY AND MAKE AVAILABLE AMERICAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL FOR LOAN SERVICE TO THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT. THE LIST OF POSTS TO BE FILLED AND THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED ARE IN ANNEX B. DETAILS ON

THE SECONDMENT TERMS WILL BE TAKEN UP THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS
WITH THE U.S. AIR ATTACHE IN SINGAPORE. UNQUOTE. CRONK

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, TEXT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AIDE MEMOIRE, AIR FORCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SINGAP02165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750179-0791, D750178-0257
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750531/aaaabbpe.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SINGAPORE 2164
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOS REQUEST FOR USAF PERSONNEL
TAGS: MASS, MILI, SN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006